

Spirit of Jefferson.

CHARLESTOWN, VA.

BENJAMIN F. BEALL, Editor.

Tuesday Morning, February 11, 1868.

OLD JEFFERSON!

Figures are stubborn, and it is said, will not lie; and figures place the glorious little county of Jefferson high up on the roll of tax paying counties in the State of West Virginia. Indeed, with one exception, she is at the head of that list, and in the amount of fees paid to her Sheriff, she is the first county in the State.

In obedience to a resolution passed by the Legislature on the 29th ult., a statement exhibiting the amount of taxes assessed in the several counties of the State for the year 1866, and the net amount of commissions paid the Sheriffs, respectively, for the collection of the same, was furnished that body by J. M. McWhorter, Auditor. In this statement we find that the tax assessed in Jefferson county amounted to \$37,008 24, and the net commission paid the Sheriff amounted to \$3,084 44. In Berkeley county the assessment was \$29,525 49, and the Sheriff's commission was \$2,201 20. In Ohio county, including the city of Wheeling, the assessment amounted to \$38,302 27, and the commission paid the Sheriff was \$2,755 52. From this statement it will be seen that Jefferson county pays more taxes than any other county in the State, except Ohio. Eleven counties in the State pay in less than \$5,000 each, whilst there are five counties that pay in less than \$2,000 each. In McDowell county the tax assessed amounted to \$1,104 99, and the commission to the Sheriff amounted to \$88 75.

Now the question very naturally arises, who pays this \$37,000? There are in the county only a few more than three hundred voters, and by these, it is safe to say that not more than one-tenth of the \$37,000 is paid, if so much. The remainder is extorted from men who are allowed no voice in the government—not even allowed to vote for a constable or school commissioner. Can this condition of things continue? "Taxation without representation is tyranny."

LOOKING UP!

At last the "Mountain State" upon whose escutcheon is the significant motto "*Montani Semper Liberi*," has emerged from her obscurity through the action of one of her distinguished sons, who has shed upon himself and people an imperishable renown. Mr. Chester D. Hubbard, who represents the first Congressional District of this State, hitherto an "obscure" individual, as the letter writers have it, had the honor of introducing the resolution which drew forth the correspondence between the redoubtable Grant and his chief, whose correspondence, or the greater portion of it, we publish in this issue. Whether this correspondence will redound to the advantage of the hero of Appomattox, or whether it will be the means of laying him upon the shelf is to be determined by the future, but we predict that the day is not far distant when Gen. Grant will regret that Mr. Chester D. Hubbard did not remain in his obscurity to the end of time. Mr. H. is not an experienced trainer, and the fact that he has trotted his nag out in a controversy with so old a stager as a President, argues badly for his judgment. Gen. Scott, a matchless soldier and true patriot, led the Presidency by stopping to take a "hasty plate of soup" with Secretary Marcy, and Grant ought to profit by his misfortune.

But whatever may be the fate of the General—whether he shall rise to the pinnacle of glory or sink beneath the accumulated evidence of his perfidy—the fame of Mr. Chester D. Hubbard and his State is secured, and will be handed down to the ages, and as he trends the broad avenues of the national capital, he may congratulate himself that he has as effectually snuffed out the political prospects of Gen. Grant as Wilkes Booth did the physical existence of the "Late Lamented."

And now, after this signal display of masterly ability, if the Republican convention does not place Mr. Hubbard's name on its ticket for Vice President, then may we conclude that Radicals, if not Republicans, are ungrateful.

BOND SWINDLING.

A correspondent of the Rochester Union gives a practical illustration of the iniquity of paying the bonds in gold.

He cites the case of a party who in 1863-4 loaned the Government \$100,000 in greenbacks. At that time gold was 2.50 so that the Government received the equivalent of but \$40,000 in gold. Upon this he has received in gold \$60,000 interest, or fifteen per cent. upon his gold investment. His exemption amounts to two or three per cent. more. In four years upon a loan of \$40,000 gold, he has received \$24,000 gold interest which added to his tax exemption foots up about \$30,000. The principal of his debt was payable, under the law, in legal-tender currency. To pay it now in greenbacks, would give him seventy-five or eighty cents in a dollar; whereas, he only lent forty cents in gold. But this does not satisfy him. In despite of the agreement, he demands \$100,000 in gold from the Government, in addition to the \$30,000 in gold which he has received in interest and taxes, to pay the \$40,000 which he originally lent in gold. Was there ever such an unexampled usury? Was there ever such an unprecedented robbery contemplated on treasury? It is sought to pay a four-year loan to the Government of the United States of \$40,000 with \$130,000, principal and interest!

ANOTHER OUTRAGE.—The House on Wednesday, by a vote of 86 to 73, passed Julian's bill declaring all lands heretofore granted to aid the construction of railroads in certain States of the South forfeited to the United States. This was considered necessary by the Radical leaders in order to throw these lands open to black and loyal (?) white squatters, with a view to strengthening the Radical vote in that section.

IMPEACHMENT AGAIN.

The correspondence between Mr. Johnson and Gen. Grant, in which the latter charges the President with an attempt to compel him to violate the tenure-of-office law, has had the effect to revive the impeachment sensation, and last week the Washington quidnuncs predicted the early report of articles of impeachment. From the following, furnished by the reliable correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, it will be discovered that the matter has not yet assumed definite shape:

From authentic sources your correspondent learns that the stories thus far circulated in regard to the alleged action of the reconstruction committee upon the Johnson Grant correspondence have no foundation in truth, save that the committee referred the matter to a sub-committee to examine the law and determine whether any act of the President, as disclosed in the correspondence, constitutes a violation of law. There was no formal expression of the opinions of the members of the committee as to whether the President had committed an impeachable offense, but inferentially it is understood that some of the republican members of the committee were of opinion that Mr. Johnson should be impeached, because of what transpired in the Johnson Grant correspondence. The committee meets to-morrow (Saturday) when it is expected Messrs. Bingham and Boutwell, the sub-committee, will report upon the points submitted for their investigation.

There is great apprehension on the part of some nervous persons here that the House will impeach and the Senate convict Mr. Johnson. When questioned they are unable to assign any reason for this apprehension, save that they find in conversation with radical members of Congress a determination to carry out the impeachment project, if it can be done with a plausible show of cause, and this is the whole story, as the matter appears to-night. No legal grounds for impeachment are assigned by any save the old impeachers, who claim to have found enough in the War Department imbrolio. Moderate republicans deprecate a renewal of the impeachment agitation, and find no legal grounds to warrant the adoption of articles.

LATER.

From the same correspondent, writing on Sunday last, we have the following:

There is more nervous apprehension and excitement evinced to day about the threatened impeachment of the President than has ever been manifested here before. The fears are not much founded upon what is openly alleged by the radicals against Mr. Johnson, as what is mysteriously hinted as the purposes of the impeachers.

It is asserted generally, and believed by many, that recently the extremists have had secret meetings, in squads here and there, and by this means have become convinced they can adopt articles of impeachment in the House by a small majority, and this has emboldened them to take up the Johnson Grant correspondence in the determination of finding therein sufficient material to form a charge of conspiracy to resist the laws—such is the language—and possibly a violation of law, which being established to the satisfaction of the impeachers, they will revive the old charges, and with these added to the new, make a case against Mr. Johnson.

To effect this the sub-committee on reconstruction is directed to take the testimony of Gen. Grant and others as to matters connected with the Stanton imbrolio and the Grant-Johnson correspondence.

Mr. Stillson, the J. B. S. of the N. York World, was before the sub-committee yesterday, and his testimony is to be resumed to-morrow. He was interrogated yesterday as to the conversations he had had with the President relative to the interviews between Mr. Johnson and Gen. Grant, and what the President said to him (Stillson) etc. The evidence did not disclose any fact not already made public.

The democrats generally believe there has been a diligent counting of noses among the impeachers, which has given the latter encouragement to again start the impeachment movement, and the democrats also believe the plan includes the immediate passage of the Edmunds bill, or something akin to it, providing for a suspension of the party impeached from the moment of the adoption of articles of impeachment in the House.

This is confidently believed by all democrats, by some republicans, and as a plan for its enforcement, the proviso interpolated in the appropriation bill that the Secretary of War be directed to place a military guard in the Capitol, instead of the Capitol policemen, is said to have been suggested by the impeachers.

On the other hand, there are republicans who are fully informed of what is transpiring, who say this second effort of the impeachers will prove about as unsuccessful as the first, and that there has been no general canvassing nor any understanding or agreement upon a plan among any considerable number of republican members, but the whole affair has been confined to about the same parties who recently voted for sustaining the majority report of the judiciary committee favoring impeachment.

The impeachers attach importance to the fact that Mr. Bingham is with them now; but this is offset by the fact that a prominent original impeacher declares he will not support the new project. Up to this moment your correspondent has heard of no acquisition to the force of the impeachers save that of Mr. Bingham, if it be a fact he is with them.

VANDERBILT WILL NOT SUPPORT GRANT.—The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger in his letter of Friday, communicates the following:

There is quite a stir in political circles over a letter which Commodore Vanderbilt has just addressed to Mr. A. T. Stewart, giving notice that he (Vanderbilt) has withdrawn from the Cooper Institute movement which had for its object the nomination of General Grant for the Presidency. The reason assigned for this unexpected defection is the course of the General in his refusal to support the reinstatement of Mr. Stanton in the War Department. The letter is very sharp, and there is a loud call upon Mr. Stewart to make it public.

Commodore Vanderbilt's friends intimate that the communication was intended for print, and that if the gentleman to whom it was addressed does not permit it to be made public, he may send a copy of it to the news papers.

The importance of this withdrawal consists in the fact that the Commodore is one of the wealthiest men in New York, and that he publicly declared, not long since, that he was prepared to spend half of his fortune to help to make General Grant President.

Trotter & Co., the indefatigable stage men, have taken off the accommodation line from Staunton to Winchester, (known as the daylight line) and have made an important change in the time of the regular line. Hereafter the coaches will leave Staunton immediately after the arrival of the Richmond Train, and make regular connections with the trains East and West at Winchester.

PREDICTIONS.

The letter-writers who furnish news for the press of the country, are prophetic to a remarkable degree. They not only tell us what has been done, what is now transpiring, but are even prolific with predictions for the future. The last and most sensational letter of this character that has fallen under our perusal is one from the New York correspondent of the Charleston Mercury, which, as a model of its style, we append, merely remarking that it was written before the publication of the spicy correspondence between the President and Gen. Grant, which was read in the House of Representatives on Tuesday last:

I have it upon good authority that President Johnson is determined to take decided action in regard to the Bill making General Grant Dictator of the Southern States. It is quite clear to his mind that Congress has no right to create a Dictator for any part of the country, and as the very terms of the law take away from the Presidential office powers expressly granted to it by the Constitution, Mr. Johnson is perfectly willing to let matters come to a crisis, and for that purpose has made up his mind to make an issue on the Bill above alluded to. If in the course of said action Gen. Grant stands in the way, he will be set aside and another man put in his place.

Ever since Congress re-assembled after the holidays, it must have been noticed that the Radical majority are doing all in their power to exasperate and provoke the President in doing some overt act, by which good grounds could be obtained on which to build another impeachment furor, and get Mr. Wade installed as temporary President. The President, thoroughly understanding the game, has been very moderate and exceedingly careful in everything pertaining to the Stanton imbrolio; and he then was not ready to take issue with them, neither was the question of who should administer the clerical duties of a Department of War in time of peace, considered of sufficient importance upon which to appeal to the country.

Since then time has advanced, and the revolutionary schemes of Congress becoming bolder and bolder, and the Presidential battle approaching slowly, Mr. Johnson is about to assume the offensive, return blow for blow, and as I understand those well posted on matters pertaining to the White House, will, whenever the Dictator Bill becomes law, startle the country by some bold stroke, which will equal any coup d'etat ever heard of in this country. The President has well calculated the results of such a collision with Congress, and is not unwilling to be ejected from the Presidential chair, as he then will, of course, be nominated by the Democracy and triumphantly re-elected by a people who are over-burdened with indignation at the doings of the Congress now in session at Washington. In fact, Mr. Johnson thinks that he should be entitled to the Democratic nomination, and considers it a matter of simple justice that, owing to the battles which he has fought alone single handed against Radicalism, he alone ought to be the candidate of the Conservative party of the country.

Taking thus all these matters into consideration and having taken a general survey of the field, as well what is best to be done for the South, for the Union and for himself, Mr. Johnson has finally agreed to gratify Congress in furnishing them with a capital case to impeach him. Only let the Senate pass the Dictator Bill, and Congress will be more than ready to bargain for. That Bill is the President's great card. Upon it he is willing to go before the country—Nothing more, nothing less. Let them pass that Dictator Bill, and Mr. Johnson will show them that the President of the United States, and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, shall no longer be brow-beaten as such. The overt act then to be committed by him will be of course lead to impeachment and ejection from office, but as already stated, such an issue, Mr. Johnson is perfectly willing to be depicted and to be returned to the people. If impeached he must, then let it be for some act startling in its nature, which will make the people rise in their might and triumphantly carry him back to Washington. Such are the actual opinions of the President and his most intimate friends.

The state of affairs is well understood by the leading New York Democrats, and it must be acknowledged, they don't like it at all. They hate to see the occasion arising which will compel them to take Andrew Johnson up as the standard bearer of the Democracy. He has always treated them more or less disdainfully; has steadily, when it was in his power, kept all patronage away from them, and somewhat cavalierly received even the very best men of the party at the White House. But all these matters sink into utter insignificance whenever Congress should dare to depose the President simply for enforcing the provisions of the Constitution, which he has sworn to uphold. Then noisens volens they must compel them to take Andrew Johnson up as the standard bearer of the Democracy. He has always treated them more or less disdainfully; has steadily, when it was in his power, kept all patronage away from them, and somewhat cavalierly received even the very best men of the party at the White House. 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